



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



University
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University
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Academic Interviews: Some Typical Questions

Some examples of the type of questions asked at academic interviews are below. To anticipate the sort of questions you could be asked at an academic interview, you should pay close attention to the responsibilities of the job and the skills and experience required to do the job. An understanding of the employing organisation and their strategic priorities is also useful.

Motivation and Knowledge

- Why are you attracted to this post?
- Why do you want to develop your academic career at this university and not another one?
- What do you feel are the key skills of an effective lecturer?
- Describe your working relationships? For example, tell me about your experience of collaborative projects, close working with colleagues in department, development of external relationships?
- What are the current issues around teaching, learning and assessment in Higher Education?
- What do you think are your particular strengths that would make you the ideal person for this job?
- There is considerable administration involved in running courses. How do you think you would cope with this, as well as the teaching and research?

Research

- How do you feel your particular research interests would allow you to contribute to and complement the research activities in this department?
- What do you see as your major research achievements?
- How can you demonstrate international excellence in research quality?
- Describe your experience of generating research income. What plans do you have to generate research funding in the future?
- What impact do you believe your research to date has made?
- How have you disseminated your research findings?
- What does “making an impact with your research” mean to you?
- Tell me about your publication record? How would you judge this achievement and what are your future plans?
- How much influence have you had on the direction of work undertaken? Tell me about something which you have initiated.
- Tell me more about your future research plans.

Teaching and Supervision

- How equipped do you feel to contribute to teaching within our degree programmes?
- What teaching methods have you used?
- What level of experience have you had in planning and developing teaching material for courses?
- What do you think are the main challenges facing a lecturer when teaching a large group of undergraduates?
- How would your teaching methods vary according to the size and level of groups you would be teaching – if at all?
- How do you address different learning styles in your teaching?
- What experience do you have of using e-learning systems?
- How do you evaluate your teaching effectiveness?
- Teaching is important but in your view should a department give it as much of a priority as research?
- What experience have you had of supervising research projects or students?